

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 34 under 35 USC §102 (b) as anticipated by Oberhardt (US patent 5,677,133).

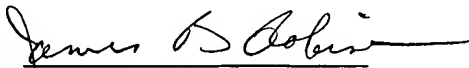
The Examiner states that the reference discloses an analytical device which comprises all of the presently recited features. Applicants respectfully disagree. As discussed in the Applicants' specification and recited in the claims, the inventive device includes a means to clear most of the sample from the test surface. The cited reference, though superficially somewhat similar to Applicants' invention, does not provide a clearing means. Oberhardt in fact teaches that the sample must be kept at the test surface in order react with a reagent and to detect a color or density change (clotting) in the sample (see col. 6, lines 45 – 48 and the examples, e.g. col. 18, line 43 - 45). Oberhardt thus teaches away from Applicants' device. Oberhardt's structure, therefore, cannot be interpreted as inherently providing all of Applicants' features without contradicting his purpose.

Since the cited reference does not contain an element of the invention as defined by the claims, the invention is not anticipated by the cited references.

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Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims in light of the preceding remarks. Should the Examiner have any issues he would like to discuss in order to facilitate the progression of this application, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (770)-587-7273.

Respectfully submitted,



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